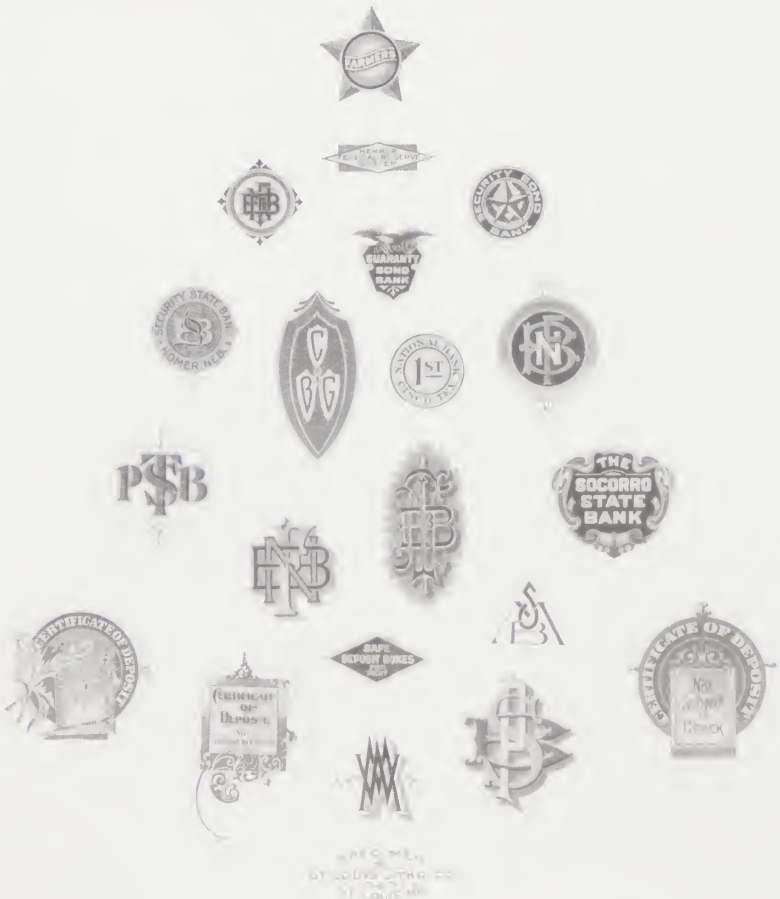
THE CHECK COLLECTOR

October-December 2000 The Journal of Number 56
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.



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To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents. See the list of 32 areas of collecting interests on the inside back of the mailing cover for ideas.

We retype all material. Illustrations require an **original** or a **good, clear, black and white copy, preferably as large as can be obtained**. Original checks sent in are copied and returned carefully. Any questions, ask the Editor!

To our advertisers:

Deadline for advertising copy to run in the January-March issue of *The Check Collector* is February 15.

The Check Collector is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby, and our membership of collectors and dealers of checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

Advertising orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks and related fiscal documents, publications, accessories, and supplies. The ASCC accepts advertising in good faith, reserving the right to edit copy. Copy for ads should be camera-ready or the Editor will set it as best he can.

ASCC assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising. However, it will reprint that portion of an advertisement in which a typographical error appeared upon prompt notification of such error.

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A check signed by F. E. Spinner appeared on eBay recently, and is now in the collection of ASCC Board Member Mike Kazanjian. Read about it on page 22.

Advertising rates are as follows:

One quarter page	$25.00/issue
Business card size	$15.00/issue

$10 discount for four issues paid at once.

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Sir John Franklin: Lost Artic Explorer

by Ray Ekeblad

Many years ago while in Boston, Massachusetts on a business trip I visited Goodspeeds, a book and manuscript dealer and my favorite stop in that city to acquire old and interesting checks. Not primarily a collector of checks written by famous individuals, I was a history buff and would buy ones that I could enjoy researching and writing about. In 1975 I wrote two lengthy articles on checks published by *The Numismatist*, the international publication by the American Numismatist Association for collectors of coins, medals, tokens and paper money. The articles were on the lives of Daniel Webster and Aaron Burr, and included illustrations of their checks and other items. As checks were not in the mainstream of numismatics at the time the articles were probably published because of the illustrations of items other than their checks and their very interesting lives. Interestingly, after the article on Aaron Burr was published I received a letter from a descendent of Aaron Burr objecting to my traditional portrayal of his life and his duel with Alexander Hamilton. The publication did report that I was formerly a stamp collector and a member of the American Philatelic Society as well as a charter member and director of the Check Collectors Round Table (predecessor to the American Society of Check Collectors) and the American Numismatic Association. Work did not give me too much time for both research and preparing articles for publication but I did submit some for *The Check Collector* from time to time.

On this particular visit to Goodspeeds I was informed that they had obtained a check written by Sir John Franklin. I asked who he was, and was told that he was a famous British explorer who had not returned to England following a voyage to the Artic searching for the Northwest Passage

That piqued my interest and I bought the check illustrated below. Thence began a most interesting research on Sir John's life and his fateful voyage. Over the years much has been written about the Artic explorers and their battles with the elements. My research file on the Franklin expedition grew but my story remained unwritten due to other matters. When the April-June issue of *The Check Collector* arrived I read the appeal for articles so here's one you can publish.

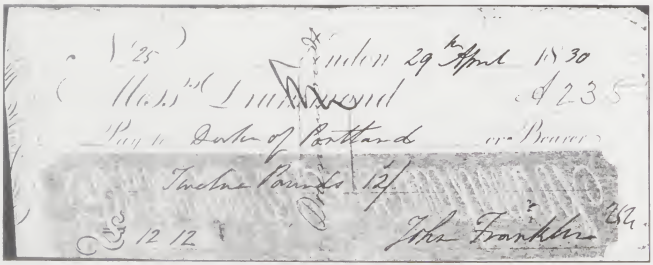


Figure 1. Check signed by Sir John Franklin, written in London on April 30, 1830 for twelve pounds and twelve shillings. It was drawn on Messrs Drummond and made payable to the Duke of Portland.

Franklin was knighted after his second trip to the Artic in 1825. In 1830, the year this check was written, he commanded a Mediterranean tour. Subsequently he served as the Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Fifteen years after this check was written he left on his final and fatal Artic expedition.

A Duke of Portland was Prime Minister from 1807-09.

John Franklin was an English naval explorer who participated in expeditions to Australia, Canada and the Artic. When he was selected to head an expedition to find a Northwest Passage he was 59 years old and very experienced. Hence when he started his voyage in May, 1845 there was much anticipation in England that he would be successful. He left with two ships, the Erebus and the Terror, which had been used in previous expeditions and were considered very seaworthy for the winter that was to come. The crews of both were selected because of their proven capabilities. The ships carried provisions for three years with all the equipment considered necessary by Franklin.

Unlike today's steady news coverage there would be no word from the expedition except that given to other ships in passing or, during landings, to natives. When nothing had been heard from Franklin by the summer of 1847 at the Admiralty in London there was concern that something unfortunate could have happened. The British government then decided to offer a reward to any one who rescued the presumably missing ships. The Hudson Bay Company even informed the Eskimos to report if they sighted the ships or their crews. Unfortunately there was no way of knowing where the expedition might have sailed into the Artic, so it was decided that several ships would be sent from London on different routes in the attempt to find them. Another group was sent overland from Canada to search, but it was unable to get far because of the weather.

One of the sea groups finally returned to England in 1849 without any clues as to the fate of Franklin's ships. The following year, now four years since Franklin had been heard from, fifteen vessels and hundreds of men continued the search. One search party landed on Beechey Island where they found lots of supplies and three tombstones for crewmen of the Terror and Erebus, but nothing to disclose what happened to all the others from the ships.

Figure 2. Sir John Franklin. Library of Congress.

In 1853 a member of the Hudson Bay Company set out overland into an area near the Gulf of Boothia, where he spoke with many Eskimos who had seen white men hauling sledges and a boat. The men apparently had to abandon their ships and many had died looking for help. Some Eskimos had also seen their ships off King William Island. The natives had all kinds of items which had been abandoned by Franklin's sailors. They also reported seeing a large number of bodies and graves in one area, some of which were mutilated, indicating that some survivors had to resort to cannibalism to remain alive before they eventually perished.

Following this report the British government concluded that the Franklin expedition was to be considered as lost, and paid a reward to the Hudson Bay Company official who had obtained all the information about the dead crew men from the Eskimos. This conclusion did not satisfy John Franklin's wife, Lady Franklin. A number of others agreed with her, as her husband had not been found and there were many other crew members still not accounted for. Accordingly, she organized a private expedition to continue the search. The new effort was placed under the command of a navy officer who had previously sailed to the artic. Leopold McClintock

With the ship Fox which had been purchased for the voyage, McClintock and his crew sailed from Scotland in July of 1857, now twelve years after John Franklin had left on his voyage. The Fox promptly encountered bad weather and it didn't take long before it was ice-bound for the winter. They did not escape the ice until the following year, when they had to return to Greenland for supplies. McClintock then sailed to Beechey Island and, finding nothing new, went on to King Edward Island. There he went ashore with two seamen. With an Eskimo and one of the men he then traveled by dog sled until he met a group of Eskimos who had been hunting near Cape Victoria, some thirty miles across the James Ross strait from King William Island. These Eskimos said that several years before a ship had sunk there, crushed by the ice. The men aboard the ship had traveled away and all died. The Eskimos also showed McClintock some silverware with Franklin's crest.

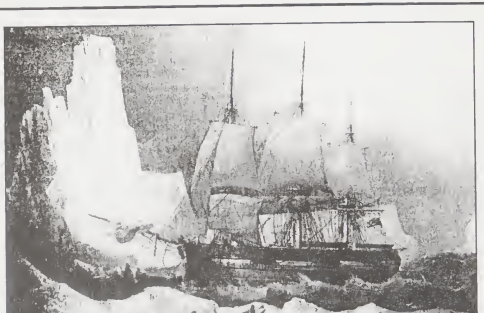


Figure 3. A painting of Franklin's ship Erebus trapped in the ice near King William Sound. National Maritime Museum. Greenwich.

McClintock's party then came upon a ship's longboat and skeletons. After further exploration they found a group of rocks with a note left by his lieutenant, who had traveled a different route. The lieutenant had discovered many items left by Franklin's party, including a note that the survivors of the Erebus and the Terror under the command of Franklin had wintered there and all was well. There was another note written a year later to the effect that many had died, including Franklin, who had died on June 11, 1847.

In spite of these discoveries, there were inconsistencies in the dates reported in the notes and where the ships' crews had spent their time. Accordingly, when McClintock returned to England there were still many questions about what happened to the expedition. For instance, if Eskimos had reported seeing Franklin's men, why didn't Franklin's men seek help from those Eskimos?

Over the years many sites have been found where the Franklin parties stayed. Two crew members were found on King Edward Island perfectly preserved in their frozen gravesites. Until this past August only about 30 bodies from Franklin's ships had been recovered. Autopsies showed that some had died from lead poisoning from canned food.

The remains of Sir John Franklin have not been discovered. In August 2000 six more bodies were discovered by Canadian Mounties in another area of the Artic, so perhaps Franklin himself will yet be found.

References:

Thayer Willis, *Encyclopedia of Discovery and Exploration, The Frozen World*, Aldus Books, London, 1971

James Brook, *Throughout Northwest Passage in a Month, Ice-Free*, The New York Times International, September 5, 2000.

Barry Lopez, *Artic Dreams*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1986.

Janet Foster, *Journey to the top of the World*, Prentice Hall Books, New York, N.Y., 1987

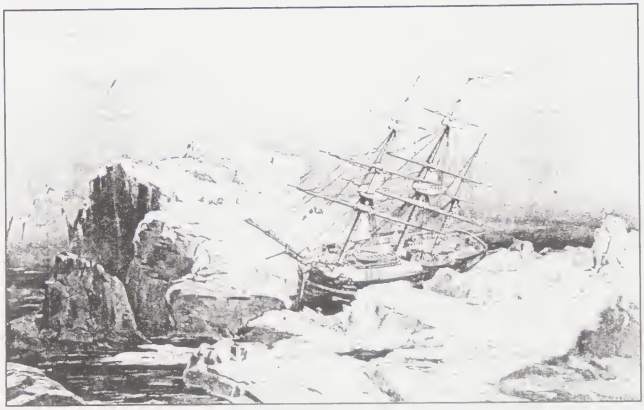
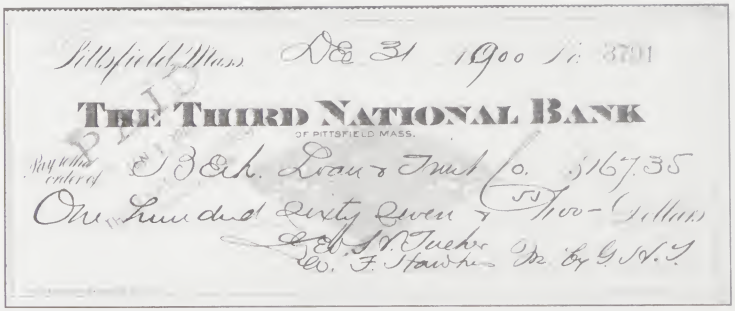


Figure 4. In 1850 one of the many ships searching for Sir John Franklin suffered the same fate as so many others when it was caught in the ice in the Prince of Wales Strait for a long period until the weather improved. The ship pictured here, the H.M.S. Investigator, was captained by Robert McLure, who reached Melville Sound by sledge. He did not find Franklin, but he did discover one of the ultimate passages to the Pacific Ocean.

A Check that Spanned the End of a Century


Pittsfield Mass Dec 31 1900 No 3701

THE THIRD NATIONAL BANK
OF PITTSFIELD MASS.

Pay to the order of E. B. & A. Loan & Trust Co. $167.35

One Hundred Sixty Seven 7 JJ Two-Dollars

E. B. & A. Trust Co. Wm. F. Stanton Dr. by G. N. Y.

If you share the traditionalist view that the Nineteenth Century ended on December 31, 1900, this check was written at the end of one century and paid at the beginning of the next. It was not only dated December 31, 1900 but was paid on January 1, 1901. At least some banks obviously did not take New Year's Day as a holiday a century ago

The check was printed by Benj. D. Benson & Son, Stationers, 49 John St., N.Y.

America Seizing the Lightning Die Proof & Matching Checks

by John and Nancy Wilson, NLG

One of the hundreds of ways that you can collect checks is by matching up the vignette or portrait with a die proof vignette. We have many different die proofs that match up to vignettes and checks that are in our collection. It is always fun to go through dealers stocks of checks and search for the vignettes that match in our collection. Everyone that is a check collector can find at least one die proof and matching check for their collection.

The five checks in this story (figures one to five) all have the vignette "America Seizing The Lightning." Most paper money collectors and dealers refer to the vignette as "America Seizing Lightning."

Figure one is the central portion of a Die Proof on cardboard, "America Seizing the Lightning," with Bureau Engraving & Printing at bottom. T. A. Liebler's vignette of America was engraved by Charles Burt. Liebler's wonderful work of America was used on the First and Second Charter Periods $10 National Bank Notes. Charles Burt did the engraving of America Seizing the Lightning. This beautiful vignette was cut out of a Bureau Engraving & Printing presentation book. **Figure two** shows a Heath Counterfeit detector plate of American Seizing Electricity. This plate from a Heath Counterfeit Detector (1860's to 1870's) depicts the vignette of America Seizing the Electricity and the area it will be found on the First and Second Charter Period notes.

Figure three contains a remainder check, The Fort Lauderdale State Bank, Fort Lauderdale, FL. This is our favorite because we now reside in Ocala, Fl (formerly Milwaukee, WI.) so it has a local flavor. Imprint at bottom, Walker, Evans & Cogswell, Charleston, S.C. Though the vignette of America has been reversed on the check, we still consider it a matching vignette. **Figure two** contains a similar check to figure one and has the same imprint. No city is on this check and the vignette of America matches up to the die proof.

Figure three is a Rockland County National Bank check from Nyack, N. Y. Numbered 8369, it is dated April 1, 1871. The imprint at bottom is, The Major & Knapp Eng. Mfg. & Litho., 71 Broadway, N. Y. An Orange RN-B1 is at center of this check. **Figure four** is another Rockland County National Bank check from Nyack, N. Y. Numbered 345, it is dated August 15, 1866. Interestingly, the imprint at bottom is like that on figure three, only the address for Major Knapp is 449 Broadway, N. Y. A Brown RN-B4 is at center of this check. Both figures three and four have a draft style layout. Both items also face opposite of the die proof.

Figure five is a check dated in 1872 from the Bank of Mobile, Mobile, AL. and is No. 147. Imprint at bottom, J. E. Sherman, Mobile, Ala. An Orange 2¢ U. S. Internal Revenue stamp is at left center.

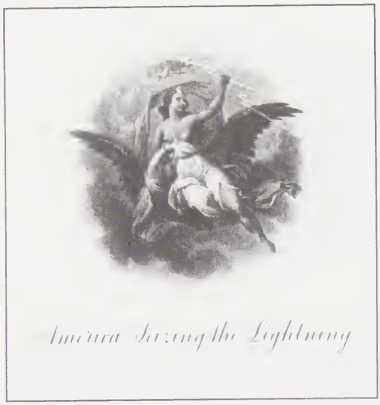
Many engraving, lithography, printing and other firms who produced checks, drafts and other fiscal documents for their customers from the 1860's and into the 1900's literally took vignettes off our Federal Currency and used them for their own products. In all of our research on checks, we could never find an actual court case where an engraver or producer of a vignette complained about someone else using their work. We can only assume the law back in this period wasn't as restrictive as it is today. I (John) have been a member of the ASCC for many years and enjoy greatly receiving the publication. We hope that you enjoy our story on America. It is our hope that all of you find at least one die proof vignette along with a matching check and do a short story for ASCC.

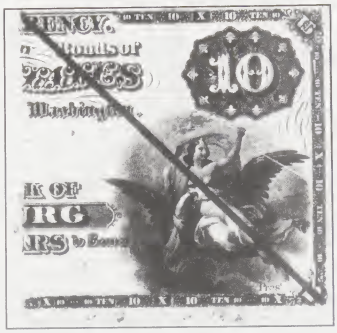
References:

Friedberg, Robert. *Paper Money of the United States, 15th Edition.* Clifton, New Jersey, The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc., 1998

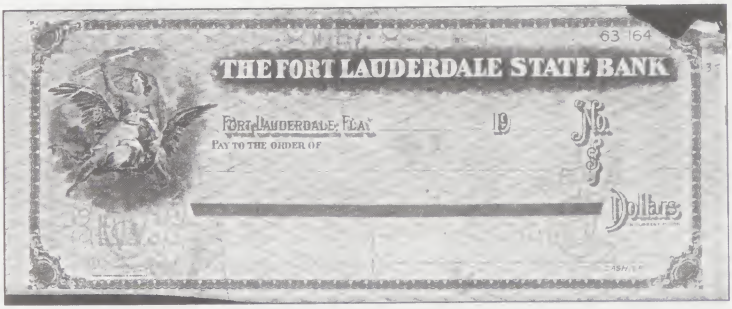
Hessler, Gene. *The Comprehensive Catalog of United States Paper Money, Sixth Edition.* Port Clinton, Ohio, BNR Press, 1997

Krause, Chester L. and Lemke, Robert F. *Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money, 18th Edition.* Iola, Wisconsin, Krause Publications, 1999

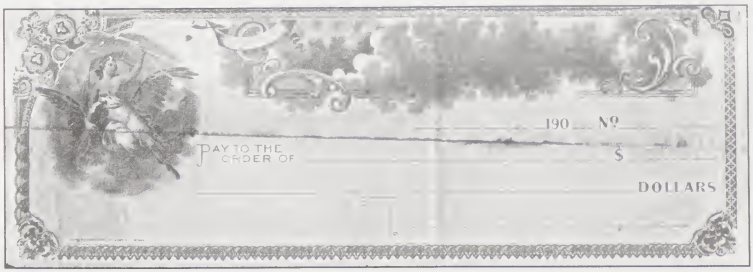


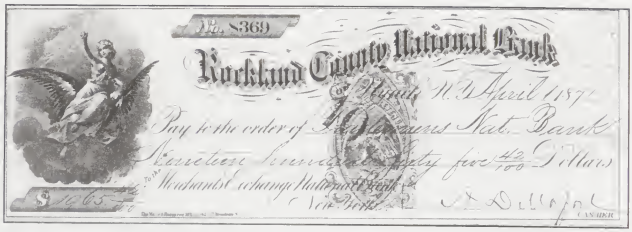


Figures 1 and 2, the central portion of a large die proof of "America Seizing the Lightning" printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and a Heath Counterfeit detector plate for the First and Second Charter Period notes.

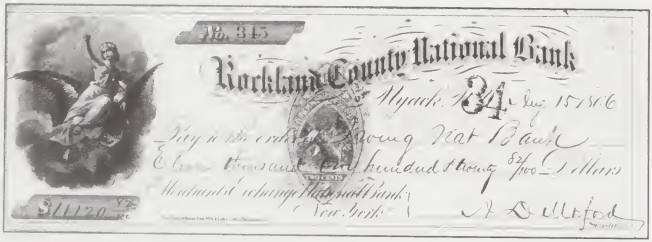


Figures three (above) and four (below). Two check usages of the vignette, one reversed.





Figures five (above) and six (below), the two printings of Rockland County National Bank checks with the vignette reversed.



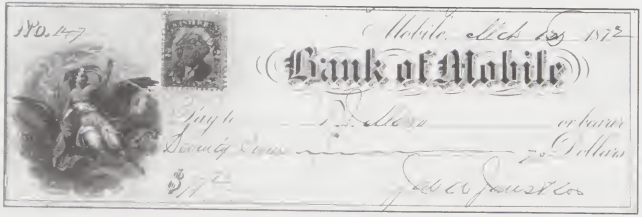


Figure seven, a check from Mobile, Alabama, with the vignette facing in the same direction as on the die proof.

Gift Certificates

by Gerald Boone

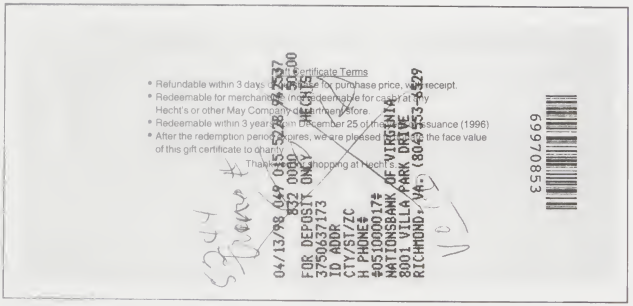
We don't often see gift certificates after they are canceled. We take them to the store from which they were bought and use them towards merchandise that we buy. A friend of mine who has found old checks, bill heads and other ephemera sent me two large bundles of canceled gift certificates that he found in a trash bin in a small New York town. The clearance office for these must have been nearby.

These gift certificates came from Strawbridge's and Hecht's Department stores. The denominations were, 10, 25, 50 and 100 dollars. Most are a dark red color on a mottled pink, with a few certificates in bright red.

These were canceled in different ways: black or red "PAID", "CANCELED" or "REDEEMED". There were some exceptions, as some were paid in cash although the terms of the certificates state that they are not redeemable for cash. The front of these were stamped, "CASH OFFICE". One lady tried to deposit hers into her bank account. Apparently the mistake was discovered and the transaction was voided.

Figures 1 and 2. A $100 gift certificate from Hecht's, above, was presented to the cash office for redemption. The certificates could be redeemed for cash within three days of purchase, with a receipt, so that could have been the case here and with others like it. The similar certificate from Strawbridge's, below, states on the back that there were "multiple docs in transaction."

Figures 3 and 4 It appears that an attempt was made to deposit this gift certificate in NationsBank of Virginia, or possibly someone at Hecht's processed a cash redemption incorrectly as a check presented to them.


Certificate Terms
• Refundable within 3 days of purchase for purchase price, with receipt.
• Redeemable for merchandise (not redeemable for cash) only
Hecht's or other May Company department store.
• Redeemable within 3 years from December 25 of the year of issuance (1996)
• After the redemption period expires, we are pleased to donate the face value
of this gift certificate to charity.
Thank you for shopping at Hecht's
04/13/98 049 015 5251 50.00
832 0080
FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
375063 7173
ID ADDR
CITY/ST/ZC
H PHONE#
#051000017#
NATIONSBANK OF VIRGINIA
8001 VILLA PARK DRIVE
RICHMOND, VA (804)553-7329
69970853

Anyone wanting a set of these certificates please send a self-addressed envelope to: Gerald Boone, 1713 West 28th St., Lorain, Ohio 44052-4302.

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F.A. Piper & Col, Uvalde - check		33	17
Fly-by-Night Bank (1st State Bank, Rio Vista, Texas)	Burnham	31	17
Hoo-Hoo Checks (Beaumont NB)	Stump	5	16
Maypearl, Texas, 1930	Boone	44	22
TRAVELERS CHEQUES			
American Express Travelers Cheques, 100 years old	Spence	19	6
UNUSUAL CHECKS			
From My Collection	Spence	42	26
UTAH			
Interesting Utah Draft	Leifer	51	12
VIGNETTES			
A Science Fiction Vignette	Poleske	39	19
Conversation Piece (mule)	Kemp	49	20
Equal Time (cats)		43	18
Machines on Checks	Sowards	52	10
More Dogs		43	21
Mules and More	Hortsman	44	7
Nursery Rhyme		54	14
River Packet Vignette	Horstman	49	22
The Clock on the Bank	Biemer	38	10
The Dog and the Check	Hohertz	42	4
The Dog and the Safe	Boraker	41	20
The Story Behind the Pelican Vignette	Poleske	16	22
Things on Checks	Ivester	43	6
Vignettes - American as Apple Pie	Spence	2	3
WASHINGTON			
Baker Boyer Bank, Walla Walla, Washington Territory 1869	Carlson	9	9
Circulating Scrip of 1907	Sheehan	23	4
State Bank of Concrete	Spence	10	17
WATERMARKS			
Watermarks for the Check Collector	Stump	1	2
WEST VIRGINIA			
My Grandfather's Quarry	Sowards	39	18
Two for the Price of One!	Stump	4	12
Union NB - altered check (		21	10
WISCONSIN			
The Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Co Bank	Boraker	30	18
WYOMING			
A Presidential Check (W.A. Carter)	Leifer	43	17
W A. Carter, Post Trader, Ft Bridger		6	11

The Seventh Annual Chicago Paper Money Exposition will be held March 2-4, 2001 at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel, 6600 North Mannheim Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Show hours are 10-6 on March 2nd and 3rd and 10-1 on March 4th. In addition, there is a Professional Preview of the show from 2-6 pm on March 1 for an admission charge of $25.

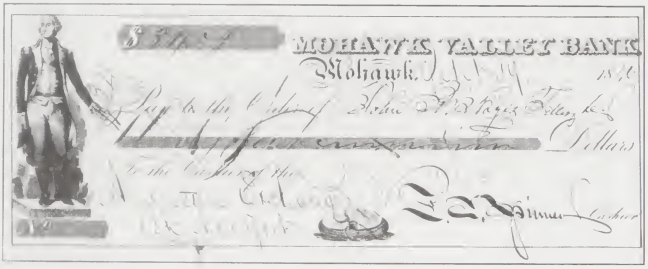
A Find on the Internet - A Spinner Check on eBay

by Mike Kazanjian

In the last few weeks of summer I began to shop on eBay, the on-line trading and auction website. At first, as with most new adventures, I "took it slow." A few small purchases of world notes and checks got me started into this new method of purchasing collectibles.

One of the things I noticed, in some cases, was a tendency on the part of some uninformed buyers, as well as sellers, to price items that were out of line. I remember seeing a common R-152 stamp - no check, just the stamp - described as a "highly unusual and rare US stamp." The starting bid wanted? $5.00! On the other hand there were certainly bargains to be found.

One of the items that "caught my eye" was described as an old draft from upstate New York. It was from the Mohawk Valley Bank and dated 1846. The seller asked the following question: "Are the signatures those of famous Americans of the period?" With this question was a photo of the front and back of the draft, with the back highlighted. Well, the signatures on the back did not look familiar, but the one on the lower right on the front did: F. E. Spinner. There it was, my first real find on eBay! The opening bid was $4.99, a real bargain. Eventually the bidding exceeded $25.00, and I won for a little more than that, but still a steal as far as I was concerned.

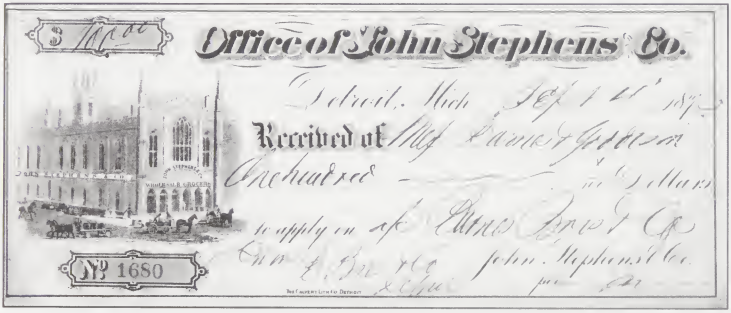


Spinner's autograph is one of those more sought after by collectors of US currency and/or checks. As US Representative from NY, 1855-1861, and the U.S Treasurer appointed by President Lincoln, serving 1861-1875, he played an important role in the history of US currency. His distinctive way of signing his name in an effort to prevent forgery has become legendary.

The Holiest Bank in Detroit

by Lawrence Falater

This receipt from the office of John Stephens & Company shows a vignette of Mariner's Church, which was originally on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit. When the church was being built the parish ran out of funds, so the first floor was rented out to merchants such as the Stephens wholesale grocery company.



At the rear of the building was the first office of the Detroit Savings Fund Institute, which later became the Detroit Savings bank, then Detroit Bank, then Detroit Bank and Trust, and now Comerica. Several years ago the stone building was moved to Jefferson Avenue, where it is currently used as a church. Various services honor mariners of the past.

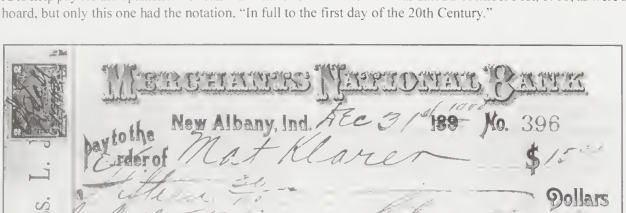
A detail view of the engraving of Mariner's Church, in which the Wholesale Grocer's sign is quite noticeable.

To the First Day of the 20th Century

by Neil Sowards

Some checks have notations on them that can make otherwise plain ones interesting.

A case in point is this check drawn on the Merchants National Bank of New Albany, Indiana, which is on the Ohio River opposite Louisville, Kentucky. It was written by Charles L. Jewett to Mat Klarer for $15 and a two- cent revenue stamp required to help pay for the Spanish American War was attached. The check was dated December 31st, 1900, as were several in the board, but only this one had the notation, "In full to the first day of the 20th Century."

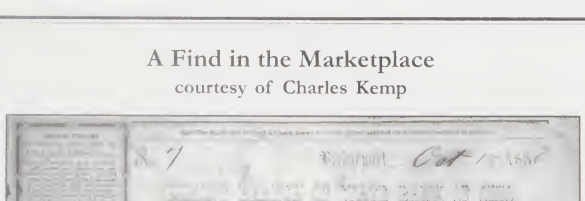


The changing of the century was recognized as an important event back then as well. Mr. Jewett also got it right in that the twentieth century began on January 1, 1901. (Incidentally, it ends on December 31st, 2000 and the next millennium truly begins January 1, 2001, in spite of all the events last New Year's Eve.)

Mr. Jewett evidently spent a whole year changing 189 to 1900 on his preprinted checks.

A Find in the Marketplace

courtesy of Charles Kemp



In the information printed at left, this branch of the State Bank of Ohio started out helpfully by giving the bank's hours and holidays. They then proceeded to list such a bunch of legal do's and don't's that the payee must have felt like he should consult a lawyer before attempting to cash it. The imprint reads, "Morris's Improved Check - copyright secured." It is surprising that anyone thought it necessary to copyright this, let alone print it in the first place.

E-mail to the Editor

Dear Mr. Hohertz,

I am an economist who studies payment systems and has an interest in the historical development of checks. I have been trying to find information about an English bank called the Cheque Bank. I realize that this bank is British so I am not sure if falls within the range of your Society's interests but I though it was worth contacting your Society just in case.

The Cheque Bank formed sometime around 1870, failed soon after, was reformed as the Cheque Bank, Ltd., and eventually closed in the late 1890's. What is unusual about it is that they sold books of checks that had limits on the amount that they could be written for. The maximal amount was perforated on each check. These limits summed to the amount deposited but the checks could still be written for less than the maximal amount. As a consequence, the Cheque Bank kept track of two balances, the amount of the deposit and the amount advanced through the checks. One advantage of these checks was that it provided to a seller the same guarantee of fund availability as a bank draft, while retaining the flexibility of a check.

I was hoping that someone in your society might be knowledgeable about this bank or at least be able to direct me to a good source of information about it. Unfortunately, the only information on it in the economics literature is some writings by William Stanley Jevons. While Jevons is one of the great economists of the late 19th century, he wrote on this topic in the 1870's, just as the bank was getting started. The only other source of information I have on the bank are some of the liquidation proceedings reported in issues of the Bankers' Magazine This source remarks that other banks were starting to issue checks with maximum amounts perforated on them as well. Any help in finding out whether other banks were also doing this as well would be appreciated.

Finally, I would also appreciate it if you could tell me how I might acquire a Cheque Bank cheque. I only recently discovered that there are check collectors so I have almost know information about this hobby

I hope my request is not too much trouble. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Edward (Ned) S. Prescott
Research Department O: (804) 697-8206
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond F: (804) 697-8255
P.O. Box 27622
Richmond, VA 23261
email: Edward.Prescott@rich.frb.org

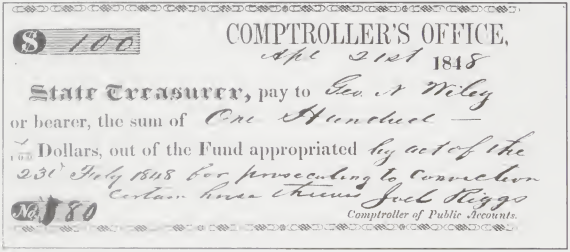
Editor's note: I informed Mr. Prescott of our English counterpart, The British Cheque Collectors Society, and suggested he get in touch with specific officers of that organization, which he said he would do. Information that any of our members could provide would be welcome as well.

The wonderful vignette from an 1869 billhead of the Columbus Index of Columbus, Mississippi, offering "all kinds of job printing, neatly and cheaply executed."

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Hohertz:

It is not unusual for me, when faced with much to see at a big show and not much time to carefully examine each item of possible interest, to buy something and later at home discover that I already have an example of what I bought or otherwise notice something about my purchase that I did not notice at the show. The latter occurred after I attended a big show at the Baltimore Convention Center, where I bought the check illustrated here. As a collector of uncancelled federal and state government checks, this check caught my attention, but my attention was focussed on what the payment was for: "prosecuting to conviction certain horse thieves."


$ 100
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
Apl 21st 1848
State Treasurer, pay to Geo. A. Wiley
or bearer, the sum of One Hundred —
100 Dollars, out of the Fund appropriated by act of the
23d July 1848 for prosecuting to Conviction
Certain horse thieves Jack Riggs
No. 180
Comptroller of Public Accounts.

What I failed to notice at the time of purchase is that there is no indication on this check which state it is from. The lack of the name of a city where the Comptroller's Office was located also doesn't help. Can any fellow ASCC member enlighten me about the origin of this check? I think it is safe to assume that the original payee, Geo. Wiley, is no longer among the living. So now that I am the new "bearer", is this $100 check still cashable, or did the "act of the 23rd Feby 1848" contain a time limitation?

Sincerely,
David A. Brase
NJ, DE, MD Regional Contact

Note on the Tanners Bank Scrip
by Charles Kemp

The note on the Tanners Bank that was sent in to the April-June 2000 *Check Collector* by Denny Peoples is an example of Civil War emergency scrip.

Back when coins were made of real silver and gold they had an intrinsic or actual value. This led people to consider them far more desirable than paper money and caused them to be hoarded during times of war or financial panic, resulting in a coin shortage. Without change, it was not possible to carry on ordinary day-to-day transactions without some substitute, so businesses all over the country were forced to issue scrip, such as this piece.

In this case the bank was promising to redeem its scrip, but only when presented in sums of at least five dollars, and then only in bank notes, not silver or gold.

Scrip like this was issued by about any business you can think of, from banks to saloons, and today is a colorful reminder of days past.

Celebrity Checks

by

Lance Campbell

It was in the short-lived 1970 daytime drama *Dark Shadows* that Kate Jackson, the then 22-year old actress, first caught the eye of television viewers. Born on October 29, 1948, in Birmingham, Alabama, Kate moved to New York City after getting bitten by the acting bug. She enrolled into the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and soon broke into television where she played the part of a ghost in *Dark Shadows*

After a short stint on *Dark Shadows* she had guest shots on TV's *Bonanza* and a semi-regular role on NBC's series *The Jimmy Stewart Show*. Kate's big break came in 1972 when she auditioned and won the part of nurse Jill Danko on the police drama *The Rookies*. After a four-year run on *The Rookies* she landed the role that would make her famous. In 1976 she began a three-year hitch as Sabrina Duncan on the highly acclaimed *Charlie's Angels*. She teamed up with Farrah Fawcett and Jaclyn Smith to play a trio of crime-busting private eyes

After *Charlie's Angels*, Kate tried her hand at comedy in the television remake of *Topper* (starring with first husband Andrew Stevens). As her career was blossoming, Kate was offered a new series for television called *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*. She was the perfect fit for the character of Mrs. King, a mother of two boys who worked as a Secret Agent. *Scarecrow* had a four-year run and was a huge hit.

The illustrated check was signed by Kate on January 25, 1993. The $12.00 check was made out to Park City Municipal, probably in payment of a utility bill. Park City is a Utah resort town. Her checking account was maintained at City National Bank in Los Angeles.

Announcements

Security Printers Guide. Distribution of the revised Security Printers Guide was a major topic at the ASCC meeting held in conjunction with the Saint Louis Paper Money Convention this October. Those of us who are concerned with this publication do not believe that the cost of producing a bound volume can be supported, as a number of members have indicated that they do not particularly care if they have it or not. Also, we cannot mail such a book under our bulk mailing permit unless we substitute it for one issue of *The Check Collector*. A first class mailing would raise the cost of general distribution even further. The result is that we have decided on the following:

The revised Security Printers Guide may be obtained NOW, in one of three ways.

First, it is available on diskette in many different formats, as previously announced. It can be obtained by sending a diskette and return postage to Lyman Hensley at his address shown under Regional Contacts on page 3.

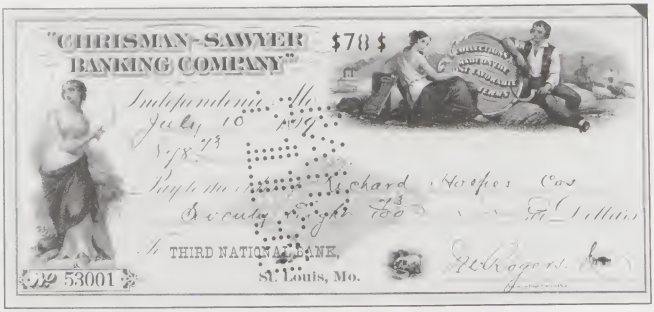
Second, it may be e-mailed to any member free of charge, in one of a number of formats. Again, to obtain a copy in this manner, please e-mail Lyman at LHensley@GREENLEE.Textron.com. You will need to tell him what format you need, such as Excel2000.

Third, you may order a looseleaf copy of the Guide, which will run 25 or so pages, double sided, on paper with margins suited for punching, for $5 a copy, postpaid, to ASCC members only. Non-members may order copies for $7.50. Please direct orders for paper copies and make your check payable to: Bill Kanowsky, 1533 Savannah Drive, Evansville, IN 47714.

The Guide will contain the printer's name, location when known, type of document or documents known to have been printed by the particular printer, the time period that the printer is known to have been active as evidenced by documents seen by the contributors, and a three-character indentification code based upon those originated by Bill Castenholz for the *Field Guides to Revenue Stamped Paper*, and included with his permission.

Raffle. Phillip Ryman has obtained two more celebrity checks to be raffled for the benefit of the ASCC treasury. All I will say at this point is that the celebrities are related, and that they deserve more space than can be given in this issue, so the raffle must wait for the next one.

From my collection. To fill up the space on "my" page I'd like to show a new acquisition (from Richard Friedberg) - an Independence, Missouri draft printed by the American Bank Note Company of Philadelphia. The style reminds me of the more elaborate checks printed for use in the 1870's rather than the late 1890's.



Secretary's Report
Coleman Leifer

This report includes all changes received through November 29, 2000

NEW MEMBERS

1701	ADAMS, JAMES H. 1607 Birch St Baraboo WI 53913 (St. Louis Paper Money Show)	1, 4, 8, 11, 20-21, 24, 30, 32
1700	BODE, JOYCE (C/D) PO Box 12634 Longview TX 75607 (By Bob Hohertz)	2 (Texas), 3-4, 11, 20-23, 26, 31
1699	FRIEDMAN, BURTON R. 6406 Dorcas St Philadelphia PA 19111 (By Bob Spence)	1, 4-5, 20-23, 26, 30, 32
1696	HURTT, MIKE (C/D) 550 W. Central, #1116 Wichita KS 67203 (By Bob Hohertz)	2 (Cripple Creek, CO), 4 (C D), 20-21, 22 (mining), 23, 25, 30
1702	JONES, CHRISTOPHER G. PO Box 666 Westmoreland TN 37186	2 (TN), 4, 5, 12 (TN obsoletes), 22, 23, 30 (TN), 31
1698	POMEXPORT, LTD., (D) PO Box 2 Ridgefield Park NJ 07660 (Thru Coin World)	All, especially $0.00 checks.
1697	STORM, JOHN H. 281 Locust St Danvers MA 01923-1155 (Thru SPMC)	2 (Danvers, MA), 4 (promissory notes), 20, 23

REINSTATED FROM NPD LIST

1161	ARCHILLA-DIEZ, EFRAIN Box 9300 Naguabo PR 00718	1, 2 (PR), 4, 7 (Dan. W.), 20, 23-24, 30
0216	BURNHAM, ROLAND P. JR. 1391 Vista del Lago San Luis Obispo CA 93405-4849	1, 12 (Civil War South), 21, 31
1650	LAMOUREUX, GEORGES (C/D) PO Box 661 Lower Sackville NS B4C 3J1	4 (bills of exchange, promissory notes), 6, 20, 22 Canada

ADDRESS CHANGES

1432	KAARLELA, JAMES W. (C/D) PO Box 573 Evart MI 49631-0573
0840	MCDONALD, DOUGLAS B. (C/D) 3500 Farm District Rd Fernley NV 89408
1417	SMITH, THOMAS H. 146 Ensley Rd Cherokee NC 28719
1321	STOLBERG, ROGER B. PO Box 130727 Carlsbad CA 92013

DROPPED - NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

1670	BOLDUC, Bob
1673	BRADFORD, Jewels S.
1668	BROWN, Michael A.
1581	WILKIE, Chuck

Dues notices for the year 2001 will be mailed shortly. Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated, as it costs the ASCC extra money for re-billing.

The check included with each dues notice is again courtesy of Eric Jackson.

Member Exchange

1¢ to 99¢ newer corporation checks for trade or possible sale. I collect Michigan checks, stocks, bonds, scrip, all banknotes. **Lawrence Falater,** POB 81, Allen, MI 49227.

Wanted: RN-type checks and drafts. Will trade US Revenues, First Issue. Have many good items to offer. **Joseph Garsick**, 8-C Maine Ct., Matawan, NJ 07747.

Railroad/transportation tickets, passes and timetables wanted. 1930's or earlier. One item or an entire collection. Call or write **Dan Benice,** Box 5708, Cary, NC 27512. Phone 919-468-5510.

Wanted: Pre-1883 checks/drafts with revenue stamps or imprints. Describe fully, include best price. Will also trade duplicate RNs. **Steve Willock**, PO Box 35070, Tucson, AZ 85740.

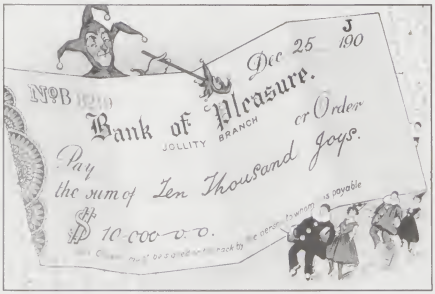
New member seeks any paper items from the Standard Arms Co. and Standard Arms Mfg. Co. (Wilmington, DE 1909-1914) - probably Wilmington Trust Co. bank items. Also Orange County, NY Checks, CD's and related. **George J. Fink**, PO Box 241, Camden, DE 19934.

Collector of Missouri checks looking to trade and correspond with other collectors of Missouri financial paper. **Gregg Voss**, 13 Roland Ave., Ballwin, MO 63021. Phone 314-230-9274.

Exchange postings will be taken from ASCC members who are collectors only. Postings of 20 words or less are free; please remit $3 each issue for postings of 21 to fifty words. Name and address do **not** count toward the 20 words.

Neither the Editor nor the ASCC can be responsible for compliance with any promises made in postings, or in response to them. Be very clear as to the value you place on your material when discussing a trade. Fairness and common courtesy are to be expected, but common sense must rule.

Holiday Greetings!



This card was used as a thank-you note to Miss A. Robertson of Stratford, Ontario in January of 1907. Since the payee was not filled in, we can all cash it. May you all have ten thousand joys in working with your collection in the coming year!

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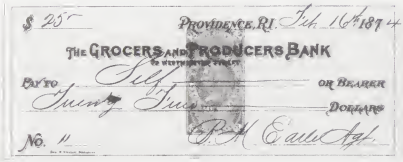

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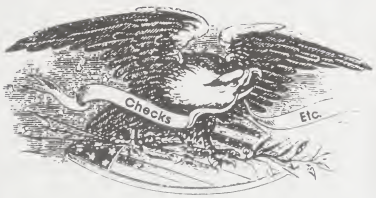

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